

<b>NUTRITION SERVICES DIVISION MANAGEMENT BULLETIN</b>		<b>No. 02-125</b>
<b>TO:</b>	School Nutrition Program Sponsors	<b>ISSUE DATE:</b> August 2002
<b>ATTENTION:</b>	Food Service Director	
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Food Safety Update September 2002 National Food Safety Education Month	

The purpose of this Management Bulletin is to encourage you and your school community to participate in the September 2002 celebration of National Food Safety Education Month and to provide an update on food safety activities within the Nutrition Services Division.

National Food Safety Education Month is an initiative focused on heightening the awareness of the importance of food safety education among foodservice workers and to educate the public to properly handle and prepare food at home. This year's theme is *"Four Steps to Food Safety."*

Food safety continues to be important to schools, not only in the food service operation, but throughout the school community as well. Attached are suggestions and resources for promoting food safety during National Food Safety Education Month:

- **Attachment I** provides selected materials from a resource packet available from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the United States Department of Agriculture. Included in the packet are a variety of ideas and tools for organizing food safety activities and events for various age groups. A "how to" section offers suggestions for putting ideas into practice. Other related materials including the complete packet are available online at <http://www.foodsafety.gov/September>.
- **Attachment II** provides a list of resources and web site addresses available on the subject of food safety. This information may be helpful in your food service operation, in classroom cooking activities, on school field trips, for parent volunteers using the school kitchen, or for distribution at an after-school program.

The California Department of Education has been facilitating the development of a coordinated food-safe school program in California. We have established a state-level, food-safe school coalition consisting of representatives from organizations throughout the state such as the California Department of Health Services, California School Food Service Association, California Parent Teachers Association, California School Nurses Organization, Fresno City College CAL-PRO-NET Center, San Diego Environmental Health Department, and Cooperative Extension.

We are working with National School District to develop a tool to assist California schools in becoming "Food-Safe Schools." It will serve as a companion piece to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) *Food-Safe Schools Action Guide*, which is currently being field-tested.

In addition, NSD will participate in the promotion of a handwashing education program entitled “Healthy Schools... Healthy People, It’s a SNAP!” (SNAP). The CDC and the Soap and Detergent Association are in the final stages of developing SNAP. The goal of the program is to assist middle schools in decreasing absenteeism by strengthening hand-hygiene practices.

If you have questions, or are interested in pilot testing the Food-Safe Schools Action Guide or the handwashing education program, please contact Cindy Schneider at (916) 322-1566, (800) 952-5609, or [cschneid@cde.ca.gov](mailto:cschneid@cde.ca.gov).

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Attachment I: Food Safety Promotion Ideas  
Attachment II: Resources and Links